CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A computer-implemented method for indexing and locating assets stored on a storage device, comprising the steps of:

performing a crawl process on said storage device to identify stored assets;

identifying asset-specific parameters related to said stored assets;

analyzing said stored assets based on said identified asset-specific parameters;

extracting textual and semantic information from said stored assets; and

storing and indexing said extracted textual and semantic information for retrieval.

2. The method as described in claim 1, wherein said stored assets comprise assets of diverse types, and wherein said identifying step identifies the asset type of each stored asset.

3. The method as described in claim 2, wherein said extracting step includes the extraction of semantic information specific to the asset type of each stored asset.

4. The method as described in claim 3, wherein said stored assets comprise code assets and wherein said asset-specific parameters comprise languages in which each code asset is written.

5. The method as described in claim 4, wherein said analysis step is performed using language-specific analyzers corresponding to the languages of said code assets.

6. The method as described in claim 5, wherein said language-specific analyzers analyze said stored assets based on predetermined parameters specific to the language to which they correspond.

7. An indexing and locating system for indexing and locating assets stored on a storage device, comprising:

crawling means for reading the contents of said storage device to identify stored assets;

analyzing means for identifying asset-specific parameters related to said stored assets, analyzing said stored assets based on said identified asset-specific parameters, and extracting textual and semantic information from said stored assets based on said analysis; and
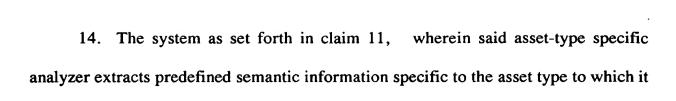
storing and indexing means for storing and indexing said extracted textual and semantic information for retrieval.

8. The system as set forth in claim 7, further comprising:

locating means for locating stored assets by applying a search query to said semantic information stored in said storing and indexing means.

9. The system as set forth in claim 8, wherein said locating means includes means for applying a search query to said textual information stored in said storing and indexing means.

10. The system as set forth in claim 9, wherein said locating means includes means for applying a search query to both said semantic information and said textual information simultaneously.

11. The system as set forth in claim 7, wherein said stored assets comprise assets of diverse types and wherein said analyzing means comprises an analysis server connected between said crawling means and said storing and indexing means, said analysis server including one or more asset-type specific servers, with at least one of said asset types having a corresponding asset-type specific analyzer.

12. The system as set forth in claim 11, wherein a plurality of said asset types have a corresponding asset-type specific analyzer.

13. The system as set forth in claim 12, wherein each of said asset types has a corresponding asset-type specific analyzer.

14.   The system as set forth in claim 11,   wherein said asset-type specific analyzer extracts predefined semantic information specific to the asset type to which it corresponds.

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15.   The method as described in claim 11, wherein said stored assets comprise code assets and wherein said asset-specific parameters comprise languages in which each code asset is written.

16.   The method as described in claim 15, wherein said analysis step is performed using language-specific analyzers corresponding to the languages of said code assets.

17.   The method as described in claim 16, wherein said language-specific analyzers analyze said stored assets based on predetermined parameters specific to the language to which they correspond.